

REMARKS

Claims 14, 26, 27 and 29-36 are pending in the above-identified application, Claims 31-32 are amended herein.

Claim Rejections

Claims 31 and 32 were objected to because of informalities. All changes were made as suggested by the Examiner.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14, 26, 27, 29-32, 34, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatta et al. (WO 00/26976 with U.S. Patent 6,797,430 used as a translation) in view of JP 01320769 (See the abstract).

Applicant traverses all rejections, and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance. Applicant reserves their right to argue against all rejections if all claims are not allowed, but Applicant believes this rejection is moot in light of perfection of priority.

In order to perfect priority, Applicants enclose a certified English language translation of the priority document of the present application, machine translation of JP2000-081860, which causes Hatta to no longer be prior art to the instant application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections/objections and believes that the claims as presented represent allowable subject matter. If the Examiner desires, applicant welcomes a telephone interview to expedite prosecution and is available at the telephone number below.

Applicants believe a \$120 fee is due for a one month extension of time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 5-22-06

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